



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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27 DECEMBER 1965

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1. Soviet Union

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In particular, Moscow feels that the US has "gone too far" in Vietnam, thus giving the Chinese a "trump card" to hold over the Soviets. The official also implied that the growing US involvement in Asia can only lead to a diminishing US role in Europe and a consequent increase in West German influence.

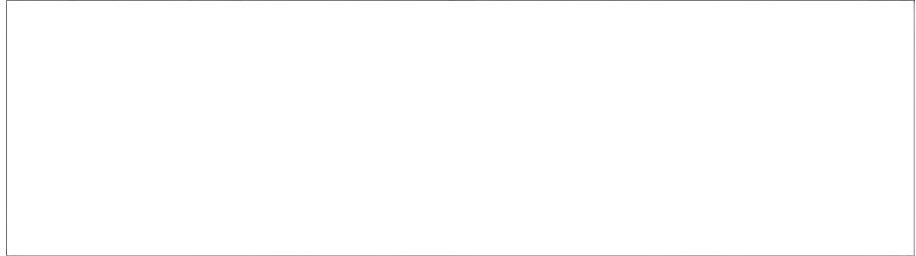
2. Soviet Union

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3. Cuba



4. Zambia

The emergency airlift of petroleum into Zambia may fail to meet the country's minimum needs, let alone fulfill the inflated expectations of local officials. Airlift planes from Dar es Salaam may be grounded tomorrow when they run out of oil drums.

In addition, movement by rail through the Congo is uncertain, while the Portuguese have been dragging in conditions on use of the railroad through Angola which are unacceptable in Lusaka.

A serious oil shortfall could call into question Zambian cooperation in the campaign against Smith.

The Zambians are emotionally committed to take countermeasures against the recent Rhodesian surtax on coal. They have already demanded payment in dollars for all exports to Rhodesia and are considering a ban on all coal imports, even though they have no ready alternate source of supply.

Should they take this step, the copper mines would close down, the white expatriates would start to leave, and the country would be near chaos.

5. Thailand

A 12-man raiding party struck a small police station in northeast Thailand last week. This marked the first attack by Communist guerrillas on a Thai government installation.

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6. Vietnam.

Hanoi is attempting to discredit the standdown in US air operations over North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese today complained to the International Control Commission that "many formations" of US planes conducted "reconnaissance and provocative activities" in North Vietnamese airspace on 25 and 26 December.

Hanoi also cited two instances, on 23-24 and on 25 December, in which it said "warships of the US and its agents" had "intruded" into North Vietnamese territorial waters.

7. North Vietnam

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8. Japan

The Japanese Communists plan a march tomorrow to protest the arrival of Vice President Humphrey and the "Vietnam war." The Japanese Government has assured our embassy in Tokyo that the demonstrations will neither embarrass nor endanger the Vice President.

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9. Common Market

There are some indications that the French may next try to turn the attention of their Common Market partners to the possibilities for a wider European grouping to include Britain, Spain, and others.




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10. Dominican Republic

Christmas passed peaceably enough on this strife-torn island. The auguries for the future are not good, however.

Both the military and the Caamano armed group have put out separate and self-serving versions of the Santiago incident, and this will make it more difficult than ever for Garcia Godoy to work a miracle by reintegrating the rebels into the regular military forces.

In this situation, with two antagonistic armed groups coexisting at fairly close quarters, a small incident could all too easily become one of major proportions.



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